



## UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
 United States Patent and Trademark Office  
 Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
 www.uspto.gov



Bib Data Sheet

CONFIRMATION NO. 1303

SERIAL NUMBER 10/615,974	FILING DATE 07/09/2003  RULE	CLASS 227	GROUP ART UNIT 3721	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. END909.0511036
-----------------------------	---------------------------------------	--------------	------------------------	--

## APPLICANTS

Frederick E. Shelton IV, Hillsboro, OH;

Michael Earl Setser, Burlington, KY;

William Bruce Weisenburgh II, Maineville, OH;

\*\* CONTINUING DATA \*\*\*\*\*

NONE

\*\* FOREIGN APPLICATIONS \*\*\*\*\*

NONE

IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED

\*\* 10/03/2003

Foreign Priority claimed <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	STATE OR COUNTRY OH	SHEETS DRAWING 10	TOTAL CLAIMS 13	INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 3
35 USC 119 (a-d) conditions met <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> Met after Allowance				
Verified and Acknowledged  Examiner's Signature <i>[Signature]</i> Initials <i>[Initials]</i>				

## ADDRESS

FROST BROWN TODD LLC  
 2200 PNC Center  
 201 E. Fifth Street  
 Cincinnati, OH  
 45202-4182

## TITLE

SURGICAL STAPLING INSTRUMENT INCORPORATING A TAPERED FIRING BAR FOR INCREASED FLEXIBILITY AROUND THE ARTICULATION JOINT

FILING FEE  RECEIVED 1180	FEES: Authority has been given in Paper No. _____ to charge/credit DEPOSIT ACCOUNT No. _____ for following:	<input type="checkbox"/> All Fees <input type="checkbox"/> 1.16 Fees ( Filing ) <input type="checkbox"/> 1.17 Fees ( Processing Ext. of time ) <input type="checkbox"/> 1.18 Fees ( Issue )
------------------------------------	---	--